

TOWN CAN BE CONFIDENT IN REPLAY

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1 LUTON TOWN 1

PERMISSION TO worry you, Sir? A Dad's Army performance in the early stages of this third round FA Cup tie by Luton had their massive following in the Midlands watching from between face-hiding fingers. But after their Home Guard start, Luton smartened up to give the troopers from the top rank as good as they got.

And it was that ridiculous broken goalpost incident that gave the Town chance to snap into the well-drilled outfit we know they can be.

Luton were beginning to look on the wrong end of a bit of a clouting when, in the 33rd minute, a good effort from Macdonald went close and left Forest full-back Winfield swinging in the rigging.

Over went the post — broken below ground level. And off went the players for a 15-minute bonus break.

Saviour

Even Town coach Jimmy Andrews admitted it was Luton's saviour. "We were not going well and I was glad to be able to get the blokes together to try and sort it out," he said afterwards.

"I shoved Don Givens further forward and gave Jimmy Ryan freedom to roam about more. It was obviously not a day for wingers. They could hardly stand up on the ice."

By this time Luton were already a goal down. A Winfield free-kick from outside the box was missed by Read, who had a poor afternoon in the air, and McIntosh nudged it home.

Read admitted afterwards that he was not at his best, but added: "I have never had so much knocking about. Every time I jumped for a ball I was knocked off course. I appealed to the referee but he would not listen."

Luton still had to hang on grimly, but there was more purpose about their play after the stoppage. Forest began to falter, and they got the bird from their own fans. They have one of the worst crowds I have come across up there.

Bad crowd

Conditions were terrible.

By **ROGER DUCKWORTH**

and often the ball bounced awkwardly or a player lost his balance. Ignoring this, the crowd showed no tolerance, and at the end a section at the river end took up their weekly chant of "Gillies must go."

Some of the Luton players wore plimsolls, and afterwards Town manager Alec Stock commented: "When you have chaps who don't know what to wear for a First Division Cup tie you know it's not really right to play it."

Costly Scot Peter Cormack and English international Ian Storey-Moore were always dangerous in attack. Fast and sure-footed they gave Luton's Nicholl and Slough a busy afternoon. But the Luton pair rose to the occasion and share my man of the match award.

Jimmy Ryan, who kept his balance better than most, combined with Macdonald to give Luton a money-spinning replay tomorrow — and the chance of a Cup run.

With a bit of Chaplinesque artistry he beat two defenders while looking as if he was falling and found Macdonald with a sweet pass.

Mac did the rest. He blinded the ball at goal. It would have gone in, but rebounded painfully off a defender. It bounced back towards the Luton leader who calmly nodded it into the net as if he was just doing the job he had gone to Nottingham to do.

Givens and Court had quiet spells, but Keen and Hoy caught the eye in midfield. At full-back Bannister did a professional job and John Ryan, though prone to the odd mistake on the ice, caused Forest some trouble when he had the chance to go forward and centre. He worked particularly well with Hoy

who almost looked like a centre-forward at times.

As expected, Forest started at full tilt, but the enforced stoppage put them out of their stride. Even so they have a lot of talent, and Luton cannot afford to be complacent about tomorrow night.

But the Luton players are confident: "They are scared to death of coming to Luton. They don't like the idea at all. We'll beat them this time," Macdonald told me on the train coming home.

I think there's every reason for Luton to have quiet confidence. But they ought to leave it at that. Forest are still a First Division side and they have a lot of expensive talent.

They are having a bad time at the moment in the League — but that doesn't mean anything in the Cup.

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Read; John Ryan, Bannister; Hoy, Nicholl, Slough; Jimmy Ryan, Court, Macdonald, Keen, Givens. Sub: Busby.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Barron; Hindley, Winfield; Chapman, O'Kane, Jackson; McIntosh, Lyons, Cormack, Richardson (Rees 75 mins), Storey-Moore.

Referee: Mr Harry New (Bristol)

Attendance: 23,230

Goals: McIntosh (Forest 18). Macdonald (Luton 70).



Crash goes the goalpost, and referee Mr H. New signals for assistance. Play was held up for 15 minutes.



e. Forest's McIntosh salutes his own goal with Luton's and Ryan and Nicholl flat-footed